

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S:FWISNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 307030

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 37456 ACTION SECSTATE DEC 23

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 37456

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV WA FR

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: MESSAGE FOR GUIRINGAUD

REF: STATE 304859

SUMMARY: IN ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR,DCM CONVEYED ORALLY
TO QUAI SECRETARY GENERAL POINTS IN REFTEL. END
SUMMARY.

1. IN AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE ON IN-COUNTRY LEAVE, DCM
OBTAINED APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU
AND CONVEYED ORALLY THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS
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HAREL WAS ALSO PRESENT. SOUTOU TOOK CAREFUL NOTE AND
PROMISED TO CONVEY POINTS TO FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD
LATER IN THE DAY.

2. IN GENERAL, SOUTOU SAID, FRENCH MEMBER OF CONTACT
GROUP HAD CONSISTENTLY BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC
THAN GOF RE PROSPECTS FOR A NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT. HE

EXPRESSED FEAR OF LOSING CONTACT WITH SOUTH AFRICANS, IF PRESSURE APPLIED TOO VIGOROUSLY TO SAG, AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING DIALOGUE GOING WITH IT. HE POINTED OUT DANGERS OF APPEARING TO SIDE TOO MUCH WITH EXTREME THIRD WORLD VIEWS, WHICH WOULD DO WEST A DIS-SERVICE, SINCE MANY OF ITS BEST FRIENDS IN THIRD WORLD WERE FAR FROM ACCEPTING EXTREME POSITIONS. HE SAID THAT HIS EARLY, POST-WAR EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIETS GAVE HIM DEEP CONCERN OVER SOVIET OBJECTIVES IN PLACES LIKE STATES NEIGHBORING ON SOUTH AFRICA. HE THEN POINTED TO EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN ETHIOPIA AS IN CLASSIC PATTERN OF POST-WAR SOVIET MOVES IN EUROPE, I.E. ADOPTING EXTREMIST REGIMES IN STRATEGICALLY LOCATED COUNTRIES WHICH, LACKING POPULAR BASE, THEN BECAME NEAR-PERFECT CLIENT STATES. HE FEARED SIMILAR OPPORTUNITY MIGHT BE CREATED IN NAMIBIA IF PRESSURES REMAINED CONCENTRATED TOO HEAVILY ON SOUTH AFRICA AND NOT ENOUGH ON SWAPO.

3. HARMEL AMPLIFIED THESE POINTS, NOTING THAT FRENCH AND BRITISH, AND PROBABLY CANADIANS AND GERMANS AS WELL, SHARED VIEW THAT SAG HAS ALREADY MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS WHILE SWAPO HAS MADE VIRTUALLY NONE. HE OBSERVED THAT AMBASSADOR MCHENRY PERCEIVED SOMEWHAT MORE MOVEMENT IN SWAPO THAN OTHER FOUR COULD DISCERN. FRENCH ARE EMPHATIC, HOWEVER, ON IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE FIVE TOGETHER AND OF PREPARING UNIFORM AND ACCEPTABLE CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORT TO UN.

4. DCM REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE AND OF RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSAL FOR NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT.

5. SOUTOU REMARKED THAT FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TWO DAYS AGO TO MAKE DEMARCHE ALONG LINES SIMILAR TO HIS COMMENTS. HE CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT GOF IMPRESSION OF DIVERGENCES AMONG CONTACT GROUP HAD BEEN ONLY LIGHT IMPRESSION AND IMPLIED THAT IT HAD BEEN MORE EVIDENT SOME DAYS EARLIER THAN CURRENTLY.
HARTMAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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